

REMARKS

The present application was filed on October 12, 2001 with claims 1-27. Claims 1, 14 and 27 are the independent claims.

In the final Office Action, the Examiner: (i) rejected claims 1-3, 12 and 14-27 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0120734 (hereinafter “Riosa”); and (ii) rejected claims 4-11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Riosa in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,249,755 to Yemini (hereinafter “Yemini”).

In this response, Applicants: (i) traverse the §102(e) and §103(a) rejections for at least the following reasons; and (ii) file a Notice of Appeal..

Regarding the §102(e) rejection of claims 1-3, 12 and 14-27, Applicants assert that Riosa does not disclose each and every limitation of the claimed invention. For example, as recited in current independent claim 1, a computer-based method for use in accordance with an event management system comprising the steps of automatically generating one or more event relationship networks from event data, wherein an event relationship network comprises a graphical representation wherein nodes represent events and links connect correlated nodes, and utilizing the one or more generated event relationship networks to construct one or more correlation rules for use by a correlation engine in the event management system (underlining added for emphasis). Current independent claims 14 and 27 recite similar limitations.

By way of example, at page 7, line 6-10, of the present specification, it is illustratively explained that the approach taken by the present invention to describe correlation logic uses a conceptual framework called event relationship networks or ERNs. In one embodiment, an ERN is a directed cyclic graph. Nodes are events and are labeled with the role of the event within the case. Arcs or links from one event to the next indicate that the latter is associated with or correlated with the former. Furthermore, as the Abstract of the present application states, in conventional approaches, ERNs are constructed purely based on human expertise and there is no automatic or event semi-automatic method that validates or completes ERNs. The present invention provides techniques for automatically validating and completing existing ERNs and/or constructing new ERNs, based on collected event data.

Despite the assertion in the final Office Action, Riosa does not disclose automatically generating one or more event relationship networks from event data, as in the claimed invention.

The Office Action cites various sections of Riosa in suggesting that Riosa does automatically generate one or more event relationship networks from event data. More particularly, the final Office Action cites paragraphs [0008], l. 12-15, [0021], l. 1-7, [0107] of Riosa (see page 3, paragraph 2, of the final Office Action). However, Riosa does not disclose automatically generating one or more event relationship networks from event data. Riosa discusses the use of event relationship networks in the context of the Tivoli Enterprise Console. The Tivoli Enterprise Console permits correlation analysis of event management data to be performed. However, as with all of the existing approaches pointed out in the background section of the present specification (page 1, line 8, through page 3, line 11), generation of an event relationship network in Riosa is accomplished manually.

Riosa is replete with evidence of the event relationship network generation being a manual effort. For example, as disclosed at paragraphs [0117] and [0118] of Riosa, which is in fact where Riosa describes how an ERN is generated, it is made clear that generation of an ERN requires “completion of event management questionnaires.” This is clearly a manual process. Further, Riosa explains that “the drawing files with ERNs are examined . . . .” This is clearly a manual process. Furthermore, if Riosa intended to indicate that these steps were anything but manually performed, Riosa would have expressly so stated, as Riosa does in paragraph [0118] when describing generation of rules for each event type within the event source, i.e., “rules are generated for each event type within the event source automatically from the ERNs, rule templates, and default property files.”

Thus, Applicants respectfully believe that the final Office Action confuses automatic rule generation, which Riosa does disclose, with automatic ERN generation, which Riosa does not disclose, but which the claimed invention recites.

For at least the above reasons, independent claims 1, 14 and 27 are patentable over Riosa. Further, dependent claims 2, 3, 12, 15-26 are also patentable over Riosa not only for the above reasons, but also because such claims recite patentable subject matter in their own right.

By way of example only, claims 3 and 16 recite that when one or more previously generated event relationship networks are available, the step of automatically generating one or more event

relationship networks comprises obtaining one or more previously generated event relationship networks; validating the one or more previously generated event relationship networks by removing any nodes or links included therein that are incorrect for a particular application context; completing the one or more previously generated event relationship networks by adding any nodes or links thereto that are missing for the particular application context; and outputting the one or more validated and completed event relationship networks as the one or more event relationship networks used to construct the one or more correlation rules.

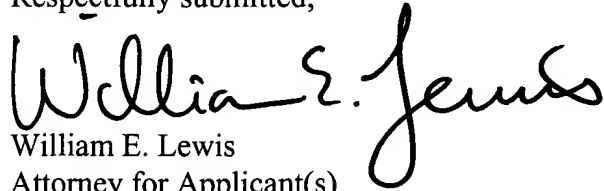
Again, these are automated steps that remove the required burden of generating ERNs from an human administrator. The final Office Action at page 3, paragraph 4, suggests that paragraph [0037], l. 6-12 of Riosa discloses the automated validation step and that paragraph [0117], l. 101-13, of Riosa discloses the automated completion step. However, this is clearly not accurate. In fact, paragraph [0037] of Riosa is more evidence of the manual nature of the process. That is, the statement in Riosa that “[t]he event can be dropped, closed, its severity changes, or a new slot can be created for all events which can be flagged for its status as a correlation candidate,” is further evidence of the manual operations performed by the human administrator in accordance with the Tivoli Enterprise Console.

Regarding the §103(a) rejection of claims 4-11 and 13, Applicants assert that such claims are patentable over the combination of Riosa and Yemini not only for the above reasons, but also because such claims recite patentable subject matter in their own right. Further, Yemini does not remedy any of the above deficiencies of Riosa.

Still further, Applicants assert that Riosa and Yemini are not properly combinable at least because Riosa is not available as a §103(a) reference due to the language of 35 U.S.C. §103(c). According to §103(c), since the present application and Riosa are assigned to and/or subject to assignment to International Business Machines Corporation, and Riosa would otherwise be a §102(e) reference, then Riosa can not be combined in a proper §103(a) rejection to reject the claimed invention.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 1-27 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request withdrawal of the §102(e) and §103(a) rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William E. Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" being the most prominent part.

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